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CIA denies Texan's version of JFK killing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS -- An unemployed Texan's claim that his father helped kill John F. Kennedy for the CIA was met by strong denials from the agency on Monday.

Ricky Don White contends his father joined the Dallas police department in September 1963 to carry out the assassination. He said his father, Roscoe White, was one of three CIA operatives who fired the shots.

The CIA issued an unusually strong rebuttal to White's claims.

"These allegations — that this was done on CIA orders, that this guy worked for us and that CIA had any role in the assassination of President Kennedy — are ludicrous," CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield said in Washington.

Roscoe White never worked for the CIA, Mansfield said. "Normally, we never confirm nor deny employment, but these allegations are so outrageous that we felt it necessary and appropriate to respond," he said.

The FBI said in a brief statement that it had received the same information in 1988 but "determined that this information is not credible."

The Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald, acting alone, fired the shots that killed Kennedy and wounded John Connally, then the Texas governor, on Nov. 22, 1963, in Dallas. Despite the commission's findings, conspiracy theories have abounded since the assassination.

Ricky White said at a news conference that his father also killed Dallas police officer J.D. Tippit about an hour after the assassination. Tippit's killing has been blamed on Oswald.

White said his father served in the Marines with Oswald, who he said also was part of the conspiracy but fired no shots.

Roscoe White died in 1971 from burns suffered in a fire.

Ricky White, 29, is a former oil equipment salesman from Midland. He made his claims during a news conference at the JFK Assassination Information Center, a privately run group that researches various assassination theories. White acknowledged he has tried to sell a book or movie on his theory.

White said he drew his conclusions from what he read in his father's diary and from his parents' discussion with a minister.

White said he got the diary after his father's death and never showed it to anyone. He said the diary disappeared after he talked to the FBI about his theory in 1988.

White said his father referred to himself in the diary by a CIA code name of "Mandarin" and to two other CIA operatives — "Lebanon" and "Saul." The diary indicated his father was on a grassy knoll in front of the presidential caravan and fired two shots that struck Kennedy, White said.

Roscoe White